



Snowmobile Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Council Members Present: Bob Lang – Chair, Bev Dittmar – Vice Chair, Dale Mayo, Dave Newman , Joel Enking, Mike Holden, Andy Malecki, Nancy Olson, Arlyn Baumgarten, Jeff Schwaller, Lee Van Zeeland, Tom Chwala, Sam Landes, Sue Smedegard, Don Mrotek, Gary Hilgendorf (term begins 7/1/20)
DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Ed Slaminski, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci, Matt Zorn, April Dombrowski, Marty Stone
Public attendance: members of the public

1. Call to order at 8:15

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Deferred till next meeting.

3. Agenda Repair - None

4. Chair Comments

Unfortunate that so many applications were incomplete, uncertain how this will affect the August funding meeting.

5. DNR Reports and Updates

- “Guidelines for Snowmobile Trail Aids” document has been updated and posted for public comment - <https://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/Guidance.html>
- Update on Grants Awarded from 19-20 Cycle Applications

Rehab/Dev Applications 19-20	# of Projects	Grant Funds
Approved by Council	57	\$1,974,719
Grants Awarded by DNR	55	\$1,880,619
NEW MILES 19-20	# of Segments	# of Miles
Approved by Council	84	612
Funding Awarded by DNR	74	457

Of the new mile segments not yet approved/awarded...

2 not yet been constructed, 1 was withdrawn, and the rest are on hold as we awaiting further information from the counties, such as updated GIS or verification that the trail will be in compliance with 40’ rule, etc.

- Snow Supplemental Requests from 2019-20 – deadline for requests is August 1, we’ll know more at the next meeting.
- Budget for 20-21 Grant Awards – won’t have budget until after July 31st. Budget info will be available at the next meeting. But trail pass sales have continued to grow.
- Intro to Grant Timeline/Process
 - April 15th** – Applications are due to the DNR
 - Spring** – DNR Grants Staff do a preliminary review of the applications, and prepare them for review by the Council

August – DNR learns how much funding is available for grant awards based on year-end reconciliation of registration and trail pass sales. Governor’s Council makes recommendations to the DNR on which projects to fund.

Fall – DNR Grants Staff do a more in-depth review of the project proposals.

- Checking for potential endangered species, archaeological impacts
- Determining if any timing restrictions are necessary
- Making sure the applicant is aware of and pursuing required permits

Fall/Winter – After the additional review is complete, grant agreements are written and sent to the applicant. At this point, work can begin.

Because of this lengthy timeline, we often advise applicants to plan for construction the year AFTER they apply for a grant. We are unable to make funding decisions prior to August as that is the very earliest we find out what funds we have available to spend.

6. Information and Action: Trail/grant issues

A. Action required on storm damage and/or amendment requests

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amt Req</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Motion</u>
#90 Storm	La Crosse	\$40,322		Motion to recommend funding by Sam, 2nd by Mike, passed unanimously.
#91 Storm	Adams	\$10,505		Motion to recommend funding by Andy, 2nd by Lee, passed unanimously.
#95 Cost Inc	Polk	\$18,751	Good to hear they sent divers down.	Motion to recommend funding by Dale, 2nd by Andy. Motion passed unanimously.
#96 Cost Inc	Forest	\$92,550	Revised cost based on as-bid prices? (Yes)	Motion to recommend funding by Dave, 2nd by Dale. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Review Snowmobile grant applications for completeness; request additional information if needed. New Mile applications will be reviewed at a later date.

Comments and questions recorded on the Funding Spreadsheet

Additional discussion during this time included;

- Council requires two quotes on bridge construction/major bridge rehab projects. Debate on accepting applications with only one quote. If only one quote was possible, applicant should explain why they were unable to obtain a 2nd (show good faith effort to try). Two quotes allow program to base a grant on a realistic const estimate.
- If a project is on public land, applicant should also be applying to Rec Trail Aids to help stretch the snowmobile program dollars.
- To date, a grant has never been issued to widen or beef up a bridge to accommodate a large groomer. When a bridge rehab is needed due to structural issues that affect the snowmobile rider, that is the time to widen or increase weight capacity.
- Reminder to applicant that accepting a rehab grant means they cannot receive another for 10 years. Willing to accept that condition on small projects that could maybe be paid by maintenance?

- Code states that a 3 year minimum land use agreement (LUA) is needed for bridge projects. Past council resolutions also indicate a 5 year minimum is needed if the project is \$50,000 or more.
- Code states that trail needs to have been in the funded trail system for minimum of 10 years to be eligible for rehab. “New Miles” applications should include costs to rehab trail when they apply for funding.

7. Council member items

- Dave –
 - Counties should apply for RTP when project is eligible.
 - The Wolf River bridge in Langlade is delayed due to a lawsuit against DNR that stated DNR did not follow proper protocol in allowing the project under master plan.
 - 40’ Rule has not been altered yet. DOT is generally in support but wants a minimum of 10’ separation. Dave is documenting instances where trails are closer than 10’ from road, and would like DOT to allow some flexibility where it is not possible to get 10’ away. Legislature does not meet again until January, so timeline on this change is not imminent.
- Andy – When will GPS units be required? Response from Dale – still some bugs in the system, particularly with recognizing trail vs. route. Not ready yet. More detailed update will be given in August.
- Gary – Feels decision needs to be made on allowing groomers to keep the meter running when traveling down road route from one trail to the next. Historically the interpretation from Cathy is that this is not eligible. Further investigation needed to legal definitions of what is eligible to help make a final determination. If there is flexibility, Council will need to state their preference.
- Sam –
 - Blue Mound Master Plan coming soon with 4 alternatives presented, including returning trail to original location.
 - Some confusion with clubs on eligible labor vs. machine hours in SNARS, should be cleared up now.
 - Expressed concern about disputed use of a portion of paved Sugar River State Trail by snowmobiles.

8. Public Comments

- None

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Dale, 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED